

Remarks

Reconsideration and reversal of the rejections expressed in the Office Action of November 23, 2004 are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks and the application as amended. The present invention relates to a polymerisation reactor for making liquid polymer and a means of controlling the viscosity of liquid polymer prepared in the reactor. It is particularly related to static reactors, more specifically to static reactors which are useful in the polymerisation of monomers and/or oligomers, by for example condensation reactions. The invention also relates to a process of making liquid polymers.

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rao et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,952,345. The Office Action states, inter alia, that the inert gas supply of Rao et al. is adapted to cause the reaction mixture to reach a foam-like consistency.

Rao et al. relates to a process and apparatus for spinning a synthetic linear polyamide wherein concurrent adjustments of humidifier water temperature and transition gas flow are utilized to provide primary control of relative viscosity of molten polyamide. The primary control or the adjustments of humidifier water temperature and transition gas flow are based upon a difference between a predetermined relative viscosity and a measured relative viscosity of the molten polyamide being spun.

Applicant respectfully contends that Rao et al. describes a completely different technology than that disclosed and claimed in the present invention, namely the control of a molten polyamide polymer which is subject to a depolymerisation reaction at the temperatures required for a melt spinning process. This depolymerisation reaction can be controlled by the moisture content in the melting zone by effecting a depolymerisation/equilibrium reaction. Thus, in Rao et al. the polymer is melted and then forced through the apparatus in a variable moisture environment to spinning equipment and the equilibrium reaction, a side effect of the temperatures needed for melt spinning, is controlled so that the polyamide flake introduced at the top of the apparatus arrives at the spinners in a suitable molten form.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully contended that the solicited claims define patentable subject matter. Reconsideration and reversal of the rejections expressed in the Office

Action of November 23, 2004 are respectfully submitted. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if any questions arise during the course of reconsideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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